What is claimed is:

 A hollow spinal spacer for engagement between vertebrae, comprising:

an anterior wall having a convexly curved anterior surface and opposite ends;

a posterior wall having a flat posterior surface and opposite ends;

two lateral walls, each integrally connected between said opposite ends of said anterior and posterior walls to define a chamber; and

said walls further defining;

a superior vertebral engaging face defining a first opening, said opening in communication with said chamber; and

an opposite vertebral engaging inferior face defining a second opening, said second opening in communication with said chamber.

- 2. The spacer of claim 1, further comprising an osteoinductive material contained within said chamber.
- 3. The spacer of claim 2 wherein said osteoinductive material is autograft.
- 4. The spacer of claim 2 wherein said osteoinductive material is a bioceramic.
- 5. The spacer of claim 4 wherein said bioceramic is a biphasic calcium phosphate ceramic.
- 6. The spacer of claim 2 wherein said osteoinductive material includes a bone morphogenic protein in a carrier.
- 7. The spacer of claim 6 wherein said bone morphogenic protein is selected from the group consisting of BMP-1, BMP-2, BMP-3, BMP-4, BMP-5, BMP-6, BMP-6, BMP-7, BMP-8, BMP-9, BMP-10, BMP-11, BMP-12 and BMP-13.

- 8. The spacer of claim 7 wherein said bone morphogenic protein is BMP-2.
 - 9. The spacer of claim 8 further comprising BMP-7.
- 10. The spacer of claim 6 wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of calcium sulfate, polylactic acids, polyanhydrides, collagen, calcium phosphate ceramics and polymeric acrylic esters.
- 11. The spacer of claim 10 wherein said carrier is an open-porosity polylactic acid polymer.
- 12. The spacer of claim 10 wherein said carrier includes collagen.
- 13. The spacer of claim 12 wherein said carrier is fibrillar collagen.
- 14. The spacer of claim 12 wherein said carrier is a collagen sponge.
- 15. The spacer of claim 10 wherein said carrier is provided in strips folded to conform to said chamber.
- 16. The spacer of claim 10 wherein said carrier is provided in sheets folded to conform to said chamber.
- 17. The spacer of claim 10, further comprising an osteoconductive material contained within said chamber.
- 18. The spacer of claim 17 wherein said osteoconductive material is allograft.
- 19. The spacer of claim 10 wherein said anterior wall defines a thru-hole configured for receiving an implanting tool.

- 20. The spacer of claim 10 wherein said superior face and said inferior face each define a roughened surface adapted to provide a friction fit with bone.
- 21. The spacer of claim 10, wherein each said lateral wall has an external surface and further comprising a lateral wing projecting from said external surface of each said lateral wall, each said wing disposed between said inferior and superior faces.
- 22. The spacer of claim 10, further comprising a first pair of blades extending from said superior face and a pair of second blades extending from said inferior face, said blades each having a cutting edge configured to pierce a vertebral end-plate.
- 23. A hollow spinal spacer for engagement between vertebrae, comprising:

an anterior wall having opposite ends and defining an anterior superior surface and an anterior inferior surface,

said anterior superior surface having a concave shape defining a first radius, said first radius configured to correspond to the anterior shape of an inferior vertebral end-plate, and

said anterior inferior surface having a convex shape defining a second radius, said second radius configured to correspond to the anterior shape of a superior vertebral end-plate;

a posterior wall having opposite ends and defining a posterior superior surface and a posterior inferior surface;

two lateral walls, each integrally connected between said opposite ends of said anterior and posterior walls to define a chamber, each said lateral wall defining a lateral superior surface and a lateral inferior surface;

a superior vertebral engaging face including said anterior superior surface, said posterior superior surface and said lateral superior surfaces, said superior face defining a first opening in communication with said chamber; and an opposite inferior vertebral engaging face including said anterior inferior surface, said posterior inferior surface and said lateral inferior surfaces, said inferior face defining a second opening in communication with said chamber.

- 24. The spacer of claim 23 wherein said walls and said faces are composed of a biocompatible composite including a rigid foam carbonaceous material and a thin film of metallic material deposited onto said carbonaceous material.
- 25. The spacer of claim 23 wherein said first radius is between about 0.500" and about 1.250" and said second radius is between about 0.500" and about 1.250".
- 26. The spacer of claim 25 wherein both said first and second radii are about 0.750.
 - 27. The spacer of claim 23 wherein:

said posterior superior surface has a concave shape defining a third radius, said third radius configured to correspond to the posterior shape of an inferior vertebral end-plate; and

said posterior inferior surface has a convex shape defining a fourth radius, said fourth radius configured to correspond to the posterior shape of a superior vertebral end-plate.

- 28. The spacer of claim 27 wherein said third radius is between about 0.500" and about 1.250" and said fourth radius is between about 0.500" and about 1.250".
- 29. The spacer of claim 28 wherein both said first and second radii are about 0.750.
- 30. The spacer of claim 23 wherein said anterior wall defines a thru-hole for receiving an implanting tool.

- 31. The spacer of claim 23 wherein said anterior wall has a convexly curved anterior surface.
- 32. The spacer of claim 31 wherein said posterior wall has a flat posterior surface.
 - 33. The spacer of claim 23, wherein:

said lateral superior surface defines a superior radius configured to correspond to the inferior shape of a vertebral end-plate; and

said lateral inferior surface defines an inferior radius configured to correspond to the superior shape of a vertebral end-plate.

- 34. The spacer of claim 23, wherein each said lateral wall includes an external surface and further comprising a lateral wing projecting from said external surface of each said lateral wall.
- 35. The spacer of claim 23, further comprising a first pair of blades extending from said superior face and a second pair of blades extending from said inferior face, said blades each having a cutting edge configured to pierce a vertebral end-plate.
- 36. A hollow spinal spacer for engagement between vertebrae, comprising:

an anterior wall having opposite ends and defining an anterior superior surface and an anterior inferior surface;

a posterior wall having opposite ends and defining a posterior superior surface and a posterior inferior surface;

two lateral walls, each integrally connected between said opposite ends of said anterior and posterior walls to define a chamber, each said lateral wall defining a convex lateral superior surface and a convex lateral inferior surface,

each said lateral superior surface defining a superior radius configured to correspond to the inferior shape of a vertebral end-plate;

each said lateral inferior surface defining an inferior radius configured to correspond to the superior shape of a vertebral end-plate;

a superior vertebral engaging face including said anterior superior surface, said posterior superior surface and said lateral superior surfaces, said superior face defining a first opening in communication with said chamber; and

an inferior vertebral engaging face including said anterior inferior surface, said posterior inferior surface and said lateral inferior surfaces, said inferior face having a second opening in communication with said chamber.

- 37. The spacer of claim 36 wherein said walls and said faces are composed of a biocompatible composite including a rigid foam carbonaceous material and a thin film of metallic material deposited onto said carbonaceous material:
- 38. The spacer of claim 36 wherein said superior radius is between about 0.500" and about 1.250" and said inferior radius is between about 0.500" and about 1.250".
- 39. The spacer of claim 38 wherein both said superior and inferior radii are each about 0.750.
- 40. The spacer of claim 36 wherein said anterior wall has a convexly curved anterior surface and said posterior wall has a flat posterior surface.
- 41. The spacer of claim 36 wherein said anterior wall defines a thru-hole for receiving an implanting tool.
- 42. A hollow spinal spacer for engagement between vertebrae, comprising:

an anterior wall having opposite ends;

a posterior wall having opposite ends;

two lateral walls each having an external surface and each integrally connected between said opposite ends of said

anterior and posterior walls to define a chamber; said walls further defining;

a superior vertebral engaging face defining a first opening in communication with said chamber;

an opposite inferior vertebral engaging face defining a second opening in communication with said chamber; and

- a lateral wing projecting from said external surface of each said lateral wall, each said wing disposed between said inferior and superior faces.
- 43. The spacer of claim 42 wherein said walls and said faces are composed of a biocompatible composite including a rigid foam carbonaceous material and a thin film of metallic material deposited onto said carbonaceous material.
- 44. The spacer of claim 42 wherein each said wing extends from said anterior wall to said posterior wall.
- 45. The spacer of claim 44, further comprising a first pair of blades extending from said superior face and a second pair of blades extending from said inferior face, each said blade having a cutting edge configured to pierce a vertebral end-plate.
 - 46. The spacer of claim 44, wherein:

said superior face includes a pair of convex lateral superior surfaces defined by said lateral walls, said lateral superior surfaces each defining a superior radius configured to correspond to the inferior shape of a vertebral end-plate; and

said inferior face includes a pair of convex lateral inferior surfaces defined by said lateral walls, said lateral inferior surfaces each defining an inferior radius configured to correspond to the superior shape of a vertebral end-plate.

47. The spacer of claim 46, wherein:

said superior face includes an anterior superior surface defined by said anterior wall, said anterior superior surface

having a concave shape defining a first radius, said first radius configured to correspond to the anterior shape of an inferior vertebral end-plate; and

said inferior face includes an anterior inferior surface having a convex shape defining a second radius, said second radius configured to correspond to the anterior shape of a superior vertebral end-plate.

- 48. The spacer of claim 47, further comprising a first pair of blades extending from said superior face and a second pair of blades extending from said inferior face, said blades each having a cutting edge configured to pierce a vertebral end-plate.
- 49. A hollow spinal spacer for engagement between vertebrae, comprising:

an anterior wall having opposite ends;

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. a posterior wall having opposite ends;

two lateral walls, each integrally connected between said opposite ends of said anterior and posterior walls to define a chamber;

said walls further defining;

a superior vertebral engaging face defining a first opening, said opening in communication with said chamber; and

an opposite inferior vertebral engaging face defining a second opening, said second opening in communication with said chamber; and

- a first blade extending from one of said engaging faces, said blade having a cutting edge configured to pierce a vertebral end-plate.
- 50. The spacer of claim 49 wherein said walls and said faces are composed of a biocompatible composite including a rigid foam carbonaceous material and a thin film of metallic material deposited onto said carbonaceous material.
- 51. The spacer of claim 49 wherein said first blade extends from said superior face.

- 52. The spacer of claim 51, further comprising a second blade extending from said superior face, said second blade parallel to said first blade and having a cutting edge configured to pierce a vertebral end-plate.
- 53. The spacer of claim 52, further comprising a pair of inferior blades extending from said inferior face, each said inferior blade having a cutting edge configured to pierce a vertebral end-plate.
- 54. The spacer of claim 49, wherein said superior face includes a pair of lateral superior surfaces defined by each said lateral wall, said lateral superior surfaces having a convex shape and said inferior face includes a pair of lateral inferior surfaces defined by each said lateral wall, said lateral inferior surfaces having a convex shape.
 - 55. The spacer of claim 54, wherein:

said superior face includes an anterior superior surface defined by said anterior wall, said anterior superior surface having a concave shape defining a first radius; and

said inferior face includes an anterior inferior surface defined by said anterior wall, said anterior inferior surface having a convex shape defining a second radius.

- 56. The spacer of claim 55 wherein said anterior wall has a convexly curved anterior surface and said posterior wall has a flat posterior surface.
- 57. The spacer of claim 56 wherein said anterior wall defines a thru-hole for receiving an implanting tool.